Crop	Final estimates 1999-2000	Advance estimates as on 29.6.01 2000-2001
Cereals Total	195.52	185.01
Pulses Total	13.35	11.06
Foodgrains Total	208.87	196.07
Nine Oilseeds	208.7	182.0
Cotton	116.4	93.9
Jute	94.2	92.5
Sugarcane	2992.3	3003.2

Assistance to Chhattisgarh for Floods

† 2121. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has asked for Rs. 125 crore from the Central Government to deal with the calamity of recent floods in the State;

(b) if so, the amount provided by Government to Chhattisgarh for relief, rehabilitation and other works in the aftermath of havoc of floods;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when and what amount would be provided to Chhattisgarh, like other States, from the calamity relief fund and other funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) An Inter-Ministerial Central Team is visiting the State from 8th to 10th August, 2001 for an assessment of the situation.

Committee on agricultural marketing practices

2122. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 16 member expert group, headed by Shri Shankarlal Guru, Chairman of International Society for Agricultural Marketing,

† Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

has submitted its report to Government and made some far-reaching recommendations on the agricultural marketing practices in the country, including freeing the marketing system from the clutches of regulated markets; and

(b) if so, the details of the major recommendations of the Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Major recommendations of the Expert Committee are as follows:—

(i) Government need to examine existing legal framework governing the institution of regulated markets and remove all such restrictive provision which inhibit growth of a competitive marketing structure in the country.

(ii) Government need to promote direct marketing of agricultural produce by the farmers to maximize their share in the price.

(iii) More commodities should be added to the list of commodities allowed for forward and futures trading to reduce price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets.

(iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to increase price risk management.

(v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance.

(vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information (c) securing markets, (d) alternate/direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

With a view to examine the recommendations made by the Expert Committee and to suggest measures to be taken for implementing them, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government.

Relief Materials to Flood Victims of Orissa

2123. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the relief material and food supply could not reach the marooned people affected by floods in Orissa, in time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the rescue operations started with the help of army could provide relief only to 40 per cent of the flood victims;

(c) what are the reasons for the civil authorities not acting in alacrity to provide timely relief to the flood affected people; and

(d) whether any probe is proposed to be undertaken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Distribution of relief at the gound level is the responsibility of the State Government. The Government of Orissa had reportedly taken all necessary steps from the beginning including issuing timely warnings, instructions to the District Collectors for evacuation of people and arranging relief supplies to the affected people. The State Government have informed that food stocks were available and that the sarpanches were authorised to administer relief in most cases. According to the State Government, the marooned people were rescued by the civilian authorities and the army and about 7 lakh people were evacuated during different stages of flood.

The State Government have also informed that the civil authorities have provided relief in time and that no probe is being undertaken.